

Appln. No.: 09/817,998
Amdt. Dated June 18, 2004
Reply to Office Action dated April 13, 2004

Remarks/Arguments

Reconsideration of this Application is requested.

Claims 1-2, 9-10, 15-16, 19-21, and 23-25 have been rejected by the Examiner under 35 USC §103(a) as being anticipated by Kuebert, et al. (U.S. 2002/0165729) in view of Lynt, et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,636,038).

Kuebert, et al. discloses the following in his abstract:

"The principles of the present invention provide the ability to flexibly change the delivery point and time for a mail item, while the item is en route. The recipient, sender, or mailer may flexibly change the delivery point of the item alone or in combination with each other. While an item is en route between the sending point and the delivery point, a notification is sent to indicate that the item is in transit. In response, the delivery of the item may be changed. For example, the destination specified by the sender (e.g., the delivery address written on the item) may be changed or a delivery time may be specified. The item is then delivered to the new delivery point and/or at the specified delivery time."

Lynt discloses the following in lines 15-26 of column 6:

"Another application of the device could be as a hand-held text to Braille reader. The imaging portion would be scanned over a printed document and the processing means would cause Braille representations of the scanned text to be produced on the tactile display for sensing by the user.

If the imaging means is replaced or augmented with a listening device, i.e., a microphone, and the processing means includes speech analysis operations, the tactile display could be caused to output Braille characters, or another representation, corresponding to detected speech. The device could be adapted to connect to a telephone so that tactile representations of speech received through the telephone are produced."

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Neither Kuebert nor Lynt, taken separately or together, discloses or anticipates the invention claimed by Applicant in claim 1 as amended and those claims dependent thereon. The cited patents do not disclose or anticipate the step of charging the recipient for delivering mail to the recipient in the manner specified by the recipient to the carrier. In the delivery of mail, a sender pays the carrier for delivering mail to a recipient. Recipients are not charged for the delivery of mail that has sufficient postage. The recipient is only charged for mail that has insufficient postage. In the method claimed by Applicant, the recipient is charged for delivery mail by the carrier in the manner specified by the recipient.

Claims 4-8, 13 and 26 have been rejected by the Examiner under 35 USC §103(a) as being unpatentable over Kuebert, et al. in view of Srinivasan (U.S. Patent No. 6,072,862).

Srinivasan discloses the following in lines 36-61 of column 2:

"To do so, the present invention provides a sender with a single subscriber number to call in order to send or leave a message. Both the sender and a subscriber may select their preferred medium of communication. If the two are different, the present invention provides the necessary conversion. In addition, the present invention can notify a subscriber when a message has been received via the subscriber's preferred "message waiting" notification mechanism. Finally, messages can be stored, routed, or communicated to other subscribers. IN such a fashion, the present invention provides for sending and receiving messages anywhere, at any time, in any form.

More particularly, the present invention provides a method and system whereby a subscriber may automatically and in a predetermined fashion direct the routing of messages having any of a number of different media formats including, but not limited to, facsimile, pages, voice mail, electronic mail (e-mail), video mail, and other types of media. Messages may be routed to a variety of different types of destinations also including, but not limited to,

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facsimile machines, pager systems, voice mail systems, e-mail systems, video mail systems, and others. Specific destinations are preselected before receipt of the messages depending upon various subscriber designated parameters such as the type of message, date, and time of day."

Claims 4-8, 13 and 26 depend on claim 1. The art cited by the Examiner does not disclose or anticipate the following steps of claim 1, as amended, and those claims dependent thereon, namely; charging the recipient for delivering mail to the recipient in the manner specified by the recipient to the carrier.

In view of the above, claims 1-27 are patentable. If the Examiner has any questions, would he please call the undersigned at the telephone number noted below.

Respectfully submitted,



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